<center>**The Claims:**</center>

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-89   (Cancelled)

90.   (Currently Amended) A system for monitoring a patient with a <u>pre-diagnosed</u> chronic condition and establishing communication to a remote office, the system transferring information from a first location to the remote office location, the system comprising:

    (a) a monitoring apparatus at the first location comprising:

        a transducing device generating an electronic signal representative of a physiological parameter characterizing the patient;

        a processor operatively coupled to the transducing device and arranged to process the electronic signal from the transducing device;

        a communication device operatively coupled to the processor and to a communication network;

        an output device operatively coupled to the processor arranged to present questions to the patient~~, relating to~~ <u>that establish whether the patient is perceiving</u> <u>symptoms related to the pre-diagnosed chronic condition;</u> ~~the patient's perception~~ ~~of the patient's condition;~~

        an input device operatively coupled to the processor arranged to receive answers from the patient in response to the questions ~~relating to the patient's~~ ~~perception of the patient's condition~~<u>, each of the answers having a pre-assigned</u> <u>numerical score value</u>; and

    (b) a processing computer at the remote office location, the processing computer arranged to be in communication with the monitoring apparatus,

    wherein the processing computer receives the physiological parameter, thereby providing a source of physiological data, and also receives the answers ~~relating to the~~

<center>2</center>

~~patient's perception of the patient's condition,~~ thereby providing a source of symptom data,

> ~~wherein the processing computer uses a threshold and a total of points associated with two or more of the answers to determine whether to issue an exception.~~

> wherein the processing computer uses a total of the predetermined numerical score values of two or more of the answers to determine whether the symptoms indicate a deterioration of the patient's pre-diagnosed condition.

91.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 90, wherein the monitoring apparatus comprises:

> a base, the base including the transducing device;

> a housing, the housing including the processor, the communication device, the input device, and the output device; and

> a support member extending between the base and the housing.

92.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 90, wherein the communication device is a modem.

93.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 90, wherein the communication between the monitoring apparatus and processing computer occurs via an RS-232 port.

94.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 90, wherein the communication between the monitoring apparatus and the processing computer occurs via the Internet.

95.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 90, wherein the monitoring apparatus comprises a second output device controlled by the processor that is arranged to infuse a drug into the patient.

96.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 90, wherein the communication device is selected from a group consisting of: a satellite communication device and an infrared communication device.

97.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 90, wherein the communication device is a Radio Frequency (RF) transceiver.

98.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 97, wherein the RF transceiver has two portions, the first portion being operatively coupled to the processor and in communication with the second portion, the second portion being located remotely from the first portion and operatively coupled to the communication network.

99.   (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 98, wherein the second portion of the RF transceiver includes a wall mounting mechanism.

100.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 90, wherein a nurse is in communication with the patient through the communication network.

101.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 90, wherein the output device is a synthetic speech communication device arranged to audibly communicate information to the patient.

102.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 90, wherein the output device is a visual display device.

103.   (Canceled).

104.   (Canceled).

105.   (Currently Amended) A method for monitoring a patient with a <u>pre-diagnosed</u> chronic condition and establishing communication to a remote office, the method comprising:

    measuring, with a transducing device, a physiological parameter characterizing the patient;

processing the physiological parameter with a processor operatively coupled to the transducing device;

presenting, with an output device operatively coupled to the processor, questions to the patient, ~~the questions relating to~~ that establish whether the patient is perceiving symptoms related to the pre-diagnosed chronic condition; ~~the patient's perception of the patient's condition;~~

receiving, in response to the questions, answers from the patient with an input device operatively coupled to the processor, each of the answers having a pre-assigned numerical score value;

communicating the ~~patient~~ answers and the physiological parameter to a remote processing computer with a communication device operatively coupled to the processor and to a communication network;

receiving, at the remote processing computer, the communicated physiological parameter, thereby providing a source of physiological data, and also receiving the answers ~~relating to the questions regarding the patient's perception of the patient's condition~~, thereby providing a source of symptom data;

determining, at the remote processing computer, whether the symptoms indicate a deterioration of the patient's pre-diagnosed condition using a total of the predetermined numerical score values of two or more of the answers; and ~~a requirement for an exception using a threshold and a total of points associated with two or more of the answers; and~~

issuing the exception when it is determined that the symptoms indicate a deterioration of the patient's pre-diagnosed condition. ~~there is a requirement for the exception.~~

106. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 105, wherein the communicating step is accomplished via a modem.

107. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 105, wherein the communicating step is accomplished via an RS-232 port.

108.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 105, wherein the communicating step is accomplished via the Internet.

109.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 105, wherein the communicating step is accomplished via an infrared communication device.

110.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 105, wherein the communicating step is accomplished via a satellite communication device.

111.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 105, wherein the communicating step is accomplished via a Radio Frequency (RF) transceiver.

112.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 111, wherein a first portion of the RF transceiver is operatively coupled to the processor and communicates with a second portion of the RF transceiver, and wherein the second portion is located remotely from the first portion and is operatively coupled to the communication network.

113.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 105, wherein the presenting step is accomplished via a synthetic speech communication device arranged to audibly communicate information to the patient.

114.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 105, wherein the presenting step is accomplished via a visual display device.

115.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 105, further comprising analyzing points associated with the answers from the patient to determine whether caregiver intervention is required.

116.   (Canceled).

117.   (Currently Amended) A system for monitoring a patient with a <u>pre-diagnosed</u> chronic condition and establishing communication to a remote office, the system transferring information from a first location to the remote office location, the system comprising:

(a) a monitoring apparatus at the first location comprising:

a transducing device generating an electronic signal representative of a physiological parameter characterizing the patient;

a processor operatively coupled to the transducing device and arranged to process the electronic signal from the transducing device;

a communication device operatively coupled to the processor and to a communication network;

an output device operatively coupled to the processor arranged to present questions to the patient <u>that establish whether the patient is perceiving symptoms related to the pre-diagnosed chronic condition; ,</u> ~~relating to the patient's perception of the patient's condition;~~

an input device operatively coupled to the processor arranged to receive answers from the patient in response to the questions<u>, each of the answers having a pre-assigned numerical score value;</u> ~~relating to the patient's perception of the patient's condition;~~ and

(b) a processing computer at the remote office location, the processing computer arranged to be in communication with the monitoring apparatus,

wherein the processing computer receives the physiological parameter, thereby providing a source of physiological data, and also receives the answers ~~relating to the patient's perception of the patient's condition~~, thereby providing a source of symptom data<u>, and</u>

wherein the processing computer is configured to use the ~~sources of~~ physiological <u>data</u> and <u>a total of the predetermined numerical score values of two or more of the answers</u> ~~symptom data~~ to determine [[if]] <u>whether</u> the patient should be identified as potentially needing health care assistance in view of a worsening of the <u>pre-diagnosed</u> chronic condition<u>.</u>~~; and~~

7

~~wherein the processing computer uses a threshold and a total of points associated~~
~~with two or more of the answers to determine whether to issue an exception.~~

118.   (Currently Amended) A system for monitoring a patient with a <u>pre-diagnosed</u> chronic condition and establishing communication to a remote office, the system transferring information from a first location to the remote office location, the system comprising:

    (a) a monitoring apparatus at the first location comprising:

        a transducing device generating an electronic signal representative of a physiological parameter characterizing the patient;

        a processor operatively coupled to the transducing device and arranged to process the electronic signals from the transducing device;

        a communication device operatively coupled to the processor and to a communication network, the communication device being a transceiver having two portions, the first portion being operatively coupled to the processor and in communication with the second portion, the second portion being located remotely from the first portion and operatively coupled to the communication network;

        an output device operatively coupled to the processor arranged to present questions to the patient~~, relating to~~ <u>that establish whether the patient is perceiving symptoms related to the pre-diagnosed chronic condition,</u> ~~the patient's perception of the patient's condition~~, wherein the output device includes a synthetic speech communication device arranged to audibly communicate information to the patient, and wherein the output device includes a visual display device;

        an input device operatively coupled to the processor arranged to receive answers from the patient in response to the questions<u>, each of the answers having a pre-assigned numerical score value;</u> ~~relating to the patient's perception of the patient's condition;~~

        a base including the transducing device, a housing including the processor, the communication device, the input device, and the output device, and a support member extending between the base and the housing; and

(b) a processing computer at the remote office location, the processing computer arranged to be in communication with the monitoring apparatus,

wherein the processing computer receives the physiological parameter, thereby providing a source of physiological data, and also receives the answers ~~relating to the patient's perception of the patient's condition~~, thereby providing a source of symptom data,

wherein the processing computer uses a total of the predetermined numerical score values of two or more of the answers to determine whether the symptoms indicate a deterioration of the patient's pre-diagnosed condition.

~~wherein the processing computer determines a requirement for an exception by analyzing points associated with the answers from the patient by totaling the points from two or more answers and comparing the total with a threshold, and~~

~~wherein the processing computer is configured to use the sources of physiological and symptom data to determine if the exception should be issued.~~